

REVIEWS



BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

THE GOD FACTOR

50 Scientists and Academics Explain Why They Believe in God

edited by Dr John F. Ashton

Thorsons/HarperCollins, Australia, 2001

ISBN 0-7322-6876-1 (379pp pb)

Price: A\$22.95; NZ\$29.95

Distributor: **Australia/New Zealand—**HarperCollins Publishers, www.harpercollins.com.au

The interface between science and spirit is a fascinating area of research, and for *The God Factor* Dr John Ashton (author/co-author of seven books and a research scientist specialising in chemistry) has assembled contributions from 50 scientists whose lives have been touched by God and who have a strong personal faith in the Creator. They may not be household names, but these scientists, selected from around the world, work as aerospace engineers, astronomers, biochemists, biologists, geophysicists, mathematicians, mechanical engineers, medical researchers, meteorologists, nuclear physicists, psychologists and more.

I was expecting more of these scientists to have discovered the reality of the Supreme Being through some deep quantum physics perspective, where the observer perceives him/herself to be one with the observed, but most of them seem to have fairly traditional spiritual viewpoints that are at odds with a rationalist's perspective. In the main, their belief in God sustains them, even if it may be hard for them to justify rationally. Some of them have arrived at their realisation of

God through intellectual insight, but others through personal experience, often at a very young age, or through prayer.

We need to remind ourselves that scientists are people, too, who are as entitled as the next person to contemplate a higher truth beyond themselves and try to make sense of existence. Perhaps it is typical scientists like these who are ultimately bridging the boundary between science and spirituality.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS AND CROP CIRCLES

by Linda Moulton Howe

Paper Chase Press, USA, 2000/01

ISBN 1-879706-91-1 (347pp pb)

Price: US\$19.95 + US\$3.00 s&h in USA;

Aust/NZ/UK orders, US\$15.95 + \$10 p&h

from Paper Chase; £17.00; NLG/55,90

Distributors: **USA—**Paper Chase Press, #850D, 8175 South Virginia St, Reno, Nevada 89511, tel +1 (503) 203 6248, 1-800 460 8604 (toll-free in North America); **UK/Europe—** NEXUS Offices

In her latest foray into unravelling the mysteries of the phenomenal world, US researcher/writer and award-winning documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe examines England's crop circles and associated phenomena including strange, arguably intelligently guided lights in the fields.

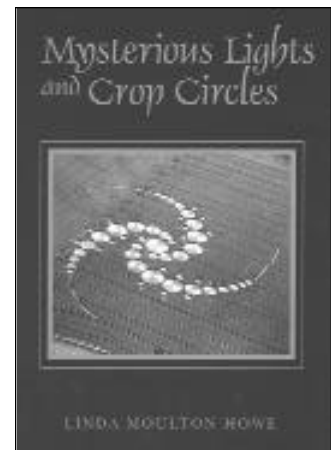
Howe has made at least five summertime visits to England between 1992 and 2000 and has experienced first-hand the awe of seeing and being in crop formations.

For her latest book, *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles*, she has gathered anecdotal evidence from eyewitnesses and circle devotees and interviewed biophysicists and mathematicians. She highlights the work of Dr

W. C. Levengood who has studied various samples of biological material from seeds and stalks affected by the energies allegedly involved in creating the crop circles. Based on the evidence gathered, there's no way these creations could have been hoaxed on the ground, and so Linda gives the Doug and Dave episode the dismissal it deserves.

Many people claim to "resonate" with the glyphs, as if the geometries are familiar but hard to pin down, and Howe discusses some of the ancient symbols that have been repeated and built upon in the landscapes of England as well as on the continent.

So, whether plasma vortex energies or intelligently guided forces beyond this realm are behind the phenomenon remains to be determined (and may never be). Howe's book, which has a great selection of inspiring photographs, takes us to the heart of the mystery and is a worthy contribution in our confounding collective quest for knowledge.





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THE CONSPIRATORS Secrets of an Iran-Contra Insider by Al Martin

National Liberty Press, USA, 2001
ISBN 0-9710042-0-X (384pp tpb)
Price: US\$14.95 + US\$5.00 s&h in USA,
+ US\$7.00 to Canada, + US\$9.00 to
Aust/NZ/UK; NLG£59,90
Distributors: **USA**—National Liberty Press,
PO Box 43, Pray, Montana 59065, tel 1-
877 776 9004 (toll free, USA/Can), email
virtualagency@yahoo.com, www.almartin-
raw.com; **Europe**—NEXUS Office

A retired US Navy Lt Commander (Reserves) and former Office of Naval Intelligence operative, Al Martin is aptly described as "the man who knows too much"—certainly in his role as a "fourth-level" Iran-Contra insider, around which his book *The Conspirators* is based.

Martin's business prowess and his intelligence community connections had him rubbing shoulders with Oliver North and his "Cause" or "Enterprise" through the mid-1980s, and he was privy to details of all manner of criminal activity from financial fraud and narcotics trafficking to spying and assassinations. If you think the whole truth really came out in the Iran-Contra hearings, you're in for a surprise, for this book will open your eyes to the layers of covert machinations within the US Government, at least during the 1980s. Many of the players are still in power, unprosecuted for their crimes. Now, his health failing and much of his testimony not yet public knowledge, Martin has decided to turn whistleblower.

The Iran-Contra guns-and-drugs fraud, planned he says by George Bush Sr, Bill Casey and Oliver North, was envisaged to

require 500 men and raise \$35 billion, but blew out to using 5,000 operatives and raising \$350 billion. That it got out of hand is an understatement, but Martin claims that had it completely backfired then Operation *Orpheus* would have been implemented—the "distraction" of a small-scale nuclear war and a secret US Government coup in one fell swoop; never mind the millions who would die or be incarcerated in purpose-built detention centres. This is a sensational exposé that gives names, places, dates and events that darken America to this day.

GIANTS FROM THE DREAMTIME The Yowie in Myth and Reality by Rex Gilroy

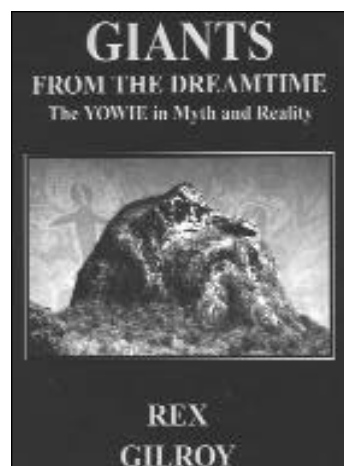
Uru Publications, Australia, 2001
ISBN 0-9578716-0-0 (379pp tpb)
Price: A\$58.00 + A\$7.00 p&h in Aust;
elsewhere, add \$15.00 p&h
Distributor: **Australia**—Uru Publications,
PO Box 202, Katoomba, NSW 2780, tel
+61 (0)2 4782 3441, email
randhgilroy@mpx.com.au

Australian field researcher and "amateur" Archaeologist and cryptozoologist Rex Gilroy has achieved another milestone in his remarkable life: he has finally published his long-promised book devoted to the yowie mystery. *Giants from the Dreamtime* is the culmination of close to 45 years of field research into what is one of his favourite passions. It's also a record of what he has gleaned from Aboriginal myth and anecdotal and recorded evidence from over 200 years of European settlement in Australia.

The focus of this area of his research is the yowie—the legendary hairy hominid creature that is the Australian equivalent of the Abominable Snowman of the Himalaya and

Sasquatch or Bigfoot of North America. Over the years, Rex Gilroy has encountered, recorded and photographed enough circumstantial evidence for him to conclude that the mysterious yowie is indeed real and comes in several variations, the largest identified as *Gigantopithecus*.

The range that this hairy Ice Age hominid allegedly covered (and may still cover) included not just Australia but Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and some of the Pacific islands. This suggests its original territory was broken up by a major geological cataclysm in a long-gone age. The photos of these overly large hominid footprints and their plaster casts are hard to ignore. But, as Rex is so keen to point out, mainstream scientists in Australia are all too ready to dispel evidence that is crying out for attention and scientific analysis. So much controversial evidence is passed over because it doesn't fit the consensus or come from an "establishment" scientist.



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CATASTROPHOBIA

The Truth Behind Earth Changes in the Coming Age of Light by Barbara Hand Clow

Bear & Co./Inner Traditions, USA, 2001

ISBN 1-879181-62-2 (256pp tpb)

Price: US\$16.00; C\$25.50; A\$36.00;

NZ\$47.95; £14.50; NLGf44,90

Distributors: **USA**—Inner Traditions, tel (802) 767 3174, www.parkstpress.com/bearpress.htm; **Canada**—Ten Speed Press, tel (416) 213 1919; **Australia**—Gemcraft, tel (03) 9888 0111; **NZ**—Southern Publishers, tel (09) 309 6930; **UK**—Deep Books, tel 020 8693 0234; **Netherlands**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)321 380558

Humanity is a wounded species suffering from a collective psychosis due to unresolved trauma from cataclysms in our past, says Barbara Hand Clow in *Catastrophobia*.

A great catastrophe befell the Earth in 9500 BC when a supernova fragment tore through the solar system and rocked our world, leaving survivors to pick up the pieces of their civilisations and repopulate the planet. Another, less drastic, calamity struck in 5600 BC and affected the Black Sea region in particular. These cataclysms are now confirmed by science, and, to support her thesis, Clow draws extensively from the work of geologists D. S. Allan and J. B. Delair, authors of *Cataclysm!* (1997; first published in 1995 in the UK as *When the Earth Nearly Died*; see 2/24, 2/25). Clow suggests, as do Allan and Delair, that the cataclysm of 11,500 years ago was responsible for tilting the Earth's axis—an event that resulted in the precessional cycle of 26,000 years and the seasons as we know them. However, Clow argues, it's time that

humanity faced up to this "catastrophobia" and realised that we don't have to live in constant expectation of apocalypse (not that all of us do, for that matter!). This collective fear, she says, is something that insidious forces have used for thousands of years to control the masses of humankind. Clow, author of *The Pleiadian Agenda*, *Heart of the Christos* and other titles, draws on the wisdom of her Cherokee/Celtic heritage and the evidence of significant archaeological findings to show that we are in the midst of a major shift of consciousness, heralding a new age of healing and enlightenment—not cataclysm. All in all, an empowering, thought-provoking book.

MYSTERIOUS AMERICA

by Loren Coleman

Paraview Press, USA, 2001 (revised ed.)

ISBN 0-931044-05-8 (384pp tpb)

Price: US\$16.95 + p&h; NLGf47,90

Distributors: **USA**—Paraview Press, tel (212) 489 5343, website www.paraviewpress.com; amazon.com; **Netherlands**—NEXUS Europe Office, tel +31 (0)321 380558

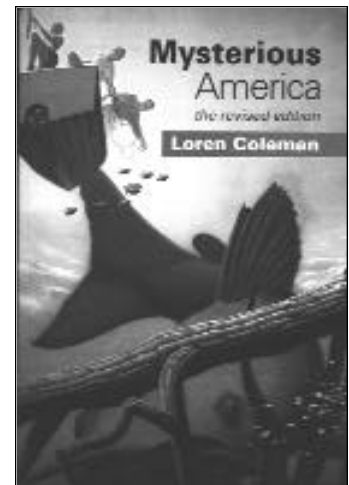
If cryptozoology is your special interest, you're likely to have a copy of Loren Coleman's classic 1983 book *Mysterious America*. However, this is the newly updated edition, so this is a good reason to update or explore this title for the first time.

This revised edition has new chapters, drawing attention to reports of the Giant Catfish and Minnesota Iceman, a new list of American "cryptid black panther" sightings, and many reworked/updated chapters covering all manner of weird creatures like the Dover Demon, Jersey Devil and Eastern Bigfoot as well as out-of-place kangaroos

and "devil" monkeys. Featured are accounts of experiences in places with "devil names" and sites that exhibit strange phenomena.

The book has proved an enduring "Fortean" reference. The bibliography has a regional US breakdown and there is now an index plus updated appendices covering such delights as recurring "spook lights" across the US, encounters with "teleporting 'gators" (sometimes with overtones of ancient mysteries), and sightings of phantom ships and lake monsters.

I like to think that maybe, one day, more and more of the "unexplained" will at least be explainable; but meantime, the sheer inexplicable just keeps happening, even in the most industrialised nation on Earth. Maybe we should be concerned that, with the shrinkage of our natural world, so many of us will never have the chance to catch a fleeting glimpse of something that makes us question our comfortable notions of reality.





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THE FRANKLIN CONSPIRACY

by Jeffrey Blair Latta

Hounslow/Dundurn Press, Canada, 2001

ISBN 0-88882-234-0 (320pp tpb)

Price: C\$22.99 + p&h; £11.99;

NLGf64,90

Distributors: **Canada**—University of Toronto Press, tel (416) 667 7791, (800) 565 9523, fax (416) 667 7832; **UK**—Dundurn Distribution, c/- Lavis Marketing, tel 01865 767575; **Netherlands**—NEXUS Europe Office, tel +31 (0)321 380558

The British Admiralty as well as the navies of Canada and the United States may have some astounding secrets locked away as a result of expeditions sent to chart a Northwest Passage from Europe, across the Arctic and down to China in the first half of the 19th century. These secrets, particularly those connected with the Franklin expedition, have been an obsession for Jeffrey Blair Latta, a freelance screenwriter and science writer based in Ontario, Canada.

He's not the first one to try to fathom the mystery surrounding two state-of-the-art British Royal Navy ships, the prophetically named *Erebus* and *Terror*, that set out in 1845 with 129 men, led by explorer Sir John Franklin, never to return. (Their mutilated remains were found on King William Island in 1929.) However, in *The Franklin Conspiracy*, Latta takes more of a bigger-picture approach than others.

Blair's methodical research has led him to believe the British Royal Navy had (and still has) a hidden agenda to do with investigating Arctic anomalies, from mirages of mountain ranges and alleged polar openings to sightings of tropical birdlife and giants. (The Inuit have their stories, too, and are said to have seen a giant aboard one of the

ships just before it sank.) It seems that the various search parties over the following 15 years had a dual purpose: to retrieve and keep secret any records of the Franklin expedition's progress. The plot thickens, as anthropological studies of three crewmen exhumed in the 1980s have revealed signs of bizarre autopsy. This is a mystery that may never be solved; nevertheless, Latta has produced a tantalising narrative that encourages readers to ask more questions.

BARRY & 'THE BOYS': The CIA, the Mob and America's Secret History

by Daniel Hopsicker

Mad Cow Press, USA, 2001

ISBN 0-9706591-0-5 (516pp hc)

Price: US\$29.95 + s&h; NLGf92,90

Distributors: **USA**—Mad Cow Press, PO

Box 2687, Eugene, OR 97402, tel +1 (541)

935 6276, fax +1 (425) 955 7888, website

www.barryandtheboys.com; amazon.com;

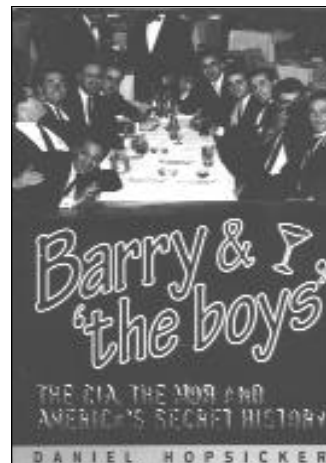
Netherlands—NEXUS Europe Office

The biggest drug smuggler in US history was pilot Barry Seal, whose name is best known in connection with CIA-sponsored drugs-and-guns-running into and out of Mena Airport, Arkansas, in the early to mid-1980s. In 1986, having been exposed and cloistered in a halfway house, and threatening to spill the beans on covert operations and mob connections that ran right up to the Vice President, he was assassinated.

But how did he get where he got? Well, it's a long, very murky story, one that TV EP Daniel Hopsicker was warned off investigating for a documentary to be broadcast on NBC stations. But knowing this to be a story that had to be told, Hopsicker turned his research into a book, and a mind-blowing read it is. In *Barry & 'The Boys'*,

Hopsicker reveals Barry Seal's notorious career, which started in 1955 as a 16-year-old when he attended a two-week Civil Air Patrol camp run by pedophile CIA agent David Ferrie, and where he met fellow cadet Lee Harvey Oswald—both famous names in the JFK assassination eight years later. At 17, Seal was already running drugs for the CIA and owned two planes. His piloting skills, combined with his black ops connections, had him delivering guns to Castro in the late 1950s, participating in the Bay of Pigs fiasco, taking a mystery plane out of Dallas the day JFK was shot, making his mark in events around the Watergate break-in, as well as being party to the Mena drug-smuggling scandal and Iran-Contra fraud.

Seal was an integral part of the recent secret history of the USA. The FBI thought so, too, for its agents removed files in Seal's car at the crime scene, just after his murder. As for who gave the order, Hopsicker leaves us in no doubt as to who did.



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NATURAL COMPOUNDS IN CANCER THERAPY

by John Boik

Oregon Medical Press, USA, 2001
ISBN 0-97648280-1-4 (521pp l/f tpb)
Price: US\$32.00 + s&h (contact publisher); £26.00; NLGf89,90
Distributors: **USA**—Oregon Medical Press, 315 10th Avenue North, Princeton, Minnesota 55371, tel +1 (763) 389 0768, 1800 610 0768 (toll free), fax +1 (612) 397 9578, website www.ompress.com; **UK**—Intercept Ltd, tel 01264 334748; **Netherlands**—NEXUS Office

Although this is a technical book that is aimed at the medical professional, it is also a wealth of information for the layperson who wants to be well informed on cancer, how it behaves and how it can be alleviated with the least invasive treatments.

By "least invasive", read "most natural" in this compendium, which comprehensively reviews the actions and potential clinical use of over three dozen compounds. The coverage includes trace metals such as selenium, iron and copper, vitamin C and antioxidants, polysaccharides, amino acids and related compounds (including garlic), flavonoids, lipid-soluble vitamins, e.g., A, E and melatonin, and more. It's ably compiled by John Boik, who sits on the editorial board of *Alternative Medicine Review*.

The first part of *Natural Compounds in Cancer Therapy* looks at cancer at the cellular level, and has chapters on mutations and gene expression, growth factors and cell-to-cell communication. The second part focuses on cancer at the level of the organism, with an overview of angiogenesis (the growth of new blood vessels), invasion and

metastasis, and the immune system. The third part features clinical considerations with the use of natural compounds, as well as the effects of natural compounds on chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Each chapter is heavily referenced and there are substantial appendices—covering, for example, chemical data and dose calculations.

Judging from the data here, there are many promising natural substances that have anti-cancer effects. Practitioners, whether they be oncologists or herbalists, should be aware of this credible body of knowledge.

NATURE'S PHARMACY FOR ANIMALS

by Harald Tietze and Friends

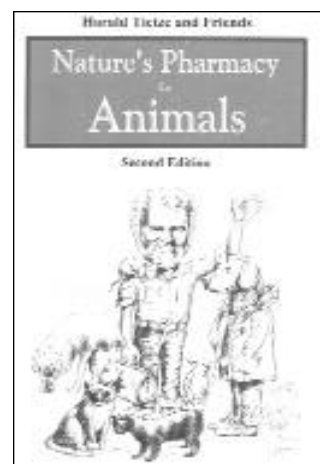
Harald W. Tietze Publishing, 2000 (2 ed)
ISBN 1-8761-7326-2 (133pp pb)
Price: A\$15.00 + A\$3 p&h in Aust; elsewhere, US\$7.00 p&h (Visa & MC only)
Distributor: **Australia**—Harald W. Tietze Publishing, PO Box 34, Bermagui, NSW 2546, tel +61 (0)2 6493 4552, fax +61 (0)2 6493 4900, email tietz@ozemail.com.au, www.wise-mens-web.com

We often hear from readers who want to apply sound health principles in the care of their pets and livestock, and now we can direct them to this handy little guide from prolific health writer Harald Tietze, which has actionable tips for animal owners and farmers alike. Harald has produced a wide range of titles, including *Earthrays: the Silent Killer*, *Urine: the Holy Water*, *pH: Youthing*, *Not Ageing* and *Kombucha: the Miracle Fungus*, so it was only a matter of time before he wrote *Nature's Pharmacy for Animals*, in which he applies much of his previous advice on natural therapies specifi-

cally to the welfare of our animal friends.

Just as we need to keep our own health in balance, so should we nurture the health of the animals in our care, and Harald advises us to observe how animals live freely in nature and apply that in practice. Animals naturally go on fasts or seek out special herbs and plants to get themselves back to a healthy state if they're feeling out of sorts.

However, when dealing with sick animals, it is important to obtain the correct diagnosis—from a professional veterinarian, Harald urges—prior to embarking on any home treatment plan. Regarding the latter, Harald describes many useful options including herbs (from angelica to yarrow) and how to use them for specific problems, as well as acupuncture, alkaline water, colloidal silver, electronic zappers, essential oils, flower essences, hydrogen peroxide and urine therapy. He discusses procedures, dosages and effects and, as always, relates some valuable and humorous anecdotes.



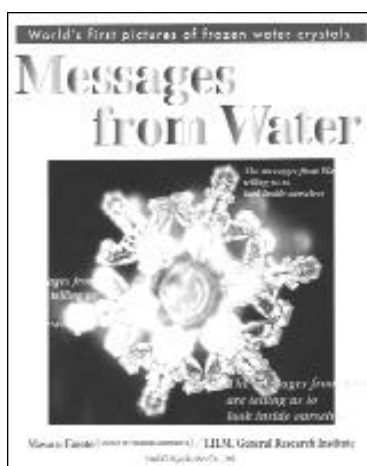


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THE MESSAGE FROM WATER

by Masaru Emoto

Hado Kyoikusha, Japan, and Hado Publishing BV, Netherlands, 1999–2001
ISBN 4-939098-00-1 (145pp tpb)
Price: A\$85.97; NLGf74,90
Distributors: **Australia**—Kinokuniya Bookstores, tel (02) 9953.8855; **The Netherlands**—Hado Publishing BV, tel/fax +31 71 521 0897, email order@hado.net, website www.hado.net; NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558



This book proved so popular in Japan, with over 60,000 copies sold since June 1999, that the publishers decided to release an English-language edition with French and German supplements. But the full-colour images in *The Message From Water* almost speak for themselves. They are the brainchild of Dr Masaru Emoto, a doctor of alternative medicine who has had an interest in "micro-cluster water" for many years.

Most of us have marvelled at pictures of snow crystals, but these photographs of crystals formed in frozen water are utterly breathtaking. Dr Emoto theorised that when a water molecule crystallises, pure water becomes pure crystal, though contaminated water may not crystallise as beautifully. He then set about "freezing", on high-speed film, water from a variety of sources—from glaciers, springs, rivers, lakes and marshes, from rain and from the tap, in Japan and around the world including Antarctica. He found that every sample he studied had a unique geometric signature.

Dr Emoto expanded his research to show the ever-changing nature of water in a new way: by capturing the crystallised image of water as it is played music as diverse as Tibetan sutras, Beethoven's *Pastorale* and heavy metal; shown letters and names in different languages (the Adolf Hitler vibration looks decidedly ugly); and imbued with a range of emotions from love to denial (the

most beautiful pattern associated with the former, of course). With the application of focused attention under lab conditions, water was snap-frozen to reveal "the mirror of mind", where consciousness left an indelible imprint. This research has more implications than are obvious at first glance.

CAPTAIN OF MY SHIP, MASTER OF MY SOUL

by F. Holmes Atwater

Hampton Roads Publishing, USA, 2001
ISBN 1-57174-247-6 (233pp tpb + Windows-formatted CD-ROM)
Price: US\$21.95; A\$57.95; NZ\$72.95 (due Nov); £18.99 (due Oct); NLGf65,90;
Distributors: **USA**—Hampton Roads, tel (804) 296 2772, www.hrpub.com;
Australia—Gemcraft, tel (03) 9888 0111;
NZ—NEXUS Office, tel (09) 405 1963;
UK—Airlift Book Co., tel 020 8804 0400;
The Netherlands—NEXUS Europe Office

The name "Skip" Atwater is well known in military remote-viewing circles as well as in consciousness research and education fields. Having joined the US Army in 1968 and completed degrees and graduate studies in psychology in the 1970s, Skip found himself on covert assignment in 1977 to get some "tips" from Robert Monroe, whose first book, *Journeys Out of the Body*, had also been a personal inspiration.

The US Army, together with SRI International, was investigating controlled remote viewing (CRV) as a surveillance and counterintelligence tool, so Monroe's input was sought for his direct experience in exploring altered states of consciousness. Soon Skip was working with RV "names" like Ingo Swann (the brains behind CRV), Hal Puthoff and Russell Targ and participating in highly classified military projects such as *Grill Flame* and *Stargate* (for which he was operations and training officer) with the US Army and then the DIA.

Upon retiring in 1988, Skip accepted the job of Research Director at the Bob Monroe Research Lab at The Monroe Institute in Virginia—and is still there. Since then, he has helped with the scientific investigation of the Hemi-Sync technology, written many technical papers, assisted umpteen people explore realms beyond the mundane physical, and collaborated in diverse research projects and educational programs.

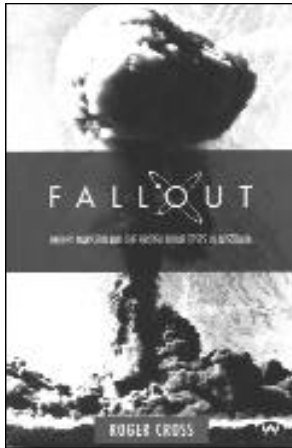
In *Captain of My Ship, Master of My Soul*, he ably reflects in his own inspiring way on his journey of spiritual awakening and growth—one that was part of him even in his military days, that led him to a realisation of All That Is, and that he's well qualified to share. (Skip Atwater is a speaker at the 2001 NEXUS Conference.)

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FALLOUT: Hedley Marston and the British Bomb Tests in Australia by Roger Cross

Wakefield Press, Australia, 2001
ISBN 1-86254-523-5 (226pp pb)
Price: A\$24.95; NZ\$39.95; £11; US\$/n/a
Distributors: **Aust**—Wakefield Press, tel +61 (0)8 8362 8800, fax +61 (0)8 8362 7592, email info@wakefieldpress.com.au, website www.wakefieldpress.com.au;
NZ—Addenda, tel (09) 834 5511; **UK**—Airlift, tel 020 8804 0400; **USA**—BHB International, tel (864) 885 9444)



When Britain approached Australia in 1950 to ask permission to conduct its open-air testing of atomic weapons within Australian territory, the anglophile Prime Minister Robert Menzies had so few qualms he didn't even consult his cabinet colleagues before consenting. And so the first atomic bomb was exploded in the remote Monte Bello Islands off the northwest coast of Western Australia in 1952. Later that year, Menzies acquiesced to Churchill by agreeing to two bomb tests at Emu Field in the far north of South Australia in October 1953. The testing fury began again in 1956 with two more at Monte Bello and four that year and more the next year at Maralinga, SA, the subject of damages claims by military veterans and indigenous Australians.

Many of these tests on Australian soil resulted in radioactive clouds that drifted over population centres, including outback towns in Queensland and capital cities including Adelaide and Melbourne (where resultant leukaemia clusters were observed), but the facts have largely been kept from the public. In *Fallout*, Melbourne academic Dr Roger Cross writes his history around CSIRO biochemist Dr Hedley Marston, who discovered a radiation plume over Adelaide from the 11 October 1956 Maralinga test and tried to expose the government/scientific cover-up. Dr Cross reveals the acrimony at the heart of Australian science at a time

when the nation was gearing up for a golden post-war industrial future and encouraging research into nuclear physics and medicine.

This is an especially relevant book in the context of recent testimony from Maralinga vets who have suffered the effects of these nuclear experiments and are seeking reparations, but also in view of plans to site nuclear waste dumps in the SA outback.

MATRIX V: Quest of the Spirit – The Ultimate Frontier by Val Valerian

Leading Edge Research Group, USA, 2001
ISBN n/a (550pp velo-bound)
Price: US\$59.99 postpaid in USA;
US\$74.95 postpaid to Canada, Mexico;
US\$89.95 postpaid elsewhere
Distributor: **USA**—Leading Edge International Research Group, PO Box 2370, Yelm, WA 98597, email val@trufax.org, website www.trufax.org

Frontier researcher Val Valerian suggested I allocate two weeks to review this latest volume in the Leading Edge *Matrix* series, but I'm lucky if I've got two hours to take in and describe the expanse of content in *Matrix V: Quest of the Spirit – the Ultimate Frontier*. He also suggested I suspend all notions of "body and gender identification beliefs" while I read it. That's easier said than done, even for someone of a paradigm-busting mentality, as some of the material on sexuality seems to smack of "spiritual sexism", to coin a new term. By the reasoning of the author (and I'm not sure if it is Valerian), few women can consider themselves on their "final incarnation" in third-density reality because they do not have the "unlimited creative ability" of men!

This book (it's velo-bound, so it's more a collection of papers) is meant to guide us towards the ultimate frontier, accessible via the Higher Self. However, the author seems to see some overriding ancient Orion agenda inhibiting women's ability to connect properly with their Higher Self. Thinking readers who have ever contemplated and actualised their higher spiritual nature will be somewhat aghast at some of these stances.

While acknowledging a debt to out-of-body pioneer Robert Monroe, *Matrix V* claims to present material to take us to territory beyond what Monroe even dared to describe. On principle, I'm wary of a book introduced as "the *only* book that exists on the planet right now that has this high level of information", but I'll leave readers to judge for themselves. No doubt fans of this series will want to continue the journey started with the first *Matrix* in 1988 and bury themselves in this one for weeks on end; they'll also welcome the reprint of the complete *Handbook for the New Paradigm*.



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THE MARIAN CONSPIRACY

by Graham Phillips

Pan Books, UK, 2001 (first published by Sidgwick & Jackson, UK, 2000)

ISBN 0-330-37202-5 (353pp pb)

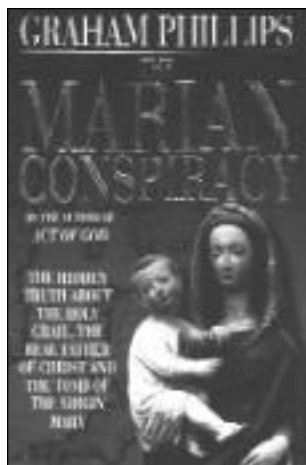
Price: A\$20.00; NZ\$32.95; £6.99

Distributors: **Australia/NZ/UK**— Pan Macmillan, www.panmacmillan.com

During a visit to the Vatican on the invitation of one Father Rinsonelli, a senior archivist in the Vatican Library, author Graham Phillips (*Act of God* and *The Search for the Grail*) was shown a room containing the rather disorganised "Secret Archives" of Vatican affairs through the centuries. He was asked by the archivist if he'd considered a link between the Holy Grail and the Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary. Very little was written about Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the New Testament, about what had happened to her after the Crucifixion or where she'd lived her final years. The priest showed him a document about the appearance before the Inquisition of Giovanni Benedetti, an archaeologist with the Vatican Museum, who dismissed the idea that Mary's tomb was in Jerusalem but suggested a location in a distant land. Phillips was intrigued, so decided to find out more.

It had been a Church "tradition" dating back to AD 380 that Mary had ascended bodily into Heaven, and the Inquisition considered the tomb idea to be a Dark Ages myth. But it wasn't till 1950 that the Assumption was declared dogma by Pope Pius XII, so discussion of Mary's tomb is in effect heretical—for if Mary ascended into Heaven, how could she have been buried in a tomb?

Phillips's well-researched investigation in *The Marian Conspiracy* weaves its way from the Holy Land, to Ephesus in Asia Minor and on to Britain. It posits that the legends of the Grail and Avalon relate to Mary and her secret burial place in the British Isles on the island of Anglesey. An enthralling history with supporting b&w photos of sacred sites.



CD - ROM

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

THE MARALINGA FILES

by Paul Langley

Australian Atomic Ex-Servicemens Association, South Australia, 2001

Price: A\$12.00 inc. p&h in Australia

Distributor: **Australia**—Paul Langley, AAEA, PO Box 539, Noarlunga Centre, SA 5168

The shameful involvement of Australia in the UK's nuclear tests at Maralinga is still being unravelled. This CD-ROM is an excellent collection of documentation and accounts of just some of what went on during the British nuclear bombing of Australia.

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

REALM OF THE RING LORDS

by Adrian Wagner

MediaQuest, UK, 2001 (57mins)

Price: A\$33.00; NZ\$45.00; £12.95;

NLGfn/a; US\$17.00

Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices; **UK**—MediaQuest International Ltd, tel +44 (0)1239 710594, email enquiries@mediaquest.co.uk, website www.mediaquest.co.uk/awagner; **USA**—MediaQuest International, website <http://mediaquestusa.com/index.html>

The third book by Laurence Gardner, *Realm of the Ring Lords*, was released in 2000 (see NEXUS Reviews, 8/01) and dealt with the Elven bloodline and its centuries of persecution by the Roman Church. The Ring and Grail cultures were preserved, but only because they went "underground".

Adrian Wagner, in his third CD of music based on the Grail legends, captures the story of the Elven kings, pixies and faeries and the mythology that we know so well from our childhood fairytales. He recreates the sound of Celtic dance, faerie processions and kingly marches and dances. He interprets the legends and tales of our culture, including Sleeping Beauty, Robin Hood and even Count Dracula.

In his own inimitable style, Adrian weaves into his music the real story made aural, dangling before us clues and musical triggers (note especially track 4, "Tomb of the Ring Lords"). He opens a collective memory link to evoke imagery of a long-distant past and the heritage of the Ring Lords and their faerie companions. This is a journey through the old dark lands, past the excesses of the mediaeval Church and into the light of a new understanding of the Ring Lords.

REVIEWS



MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

NATURE SPACE

by Sambodhi Prem

Global Suitcase, NZ, 2000 (50mins)
Distributors: **New Zealand**—Global Suitcase, tel +64 (0)3 545 0225, website www.globalsuitcase.com; **USA**—White Swan Music, tel 1800 825 8656 (toll-free in North America)

Originally from The Netherlands, Sambodhi Prem now lives in New Zealand. This is his fourth album and it features his concern for the natural environment and the precious gift of natural landscapes. He combines several types of guitar (steel, electric and synth) with native NZ bird sounds to complete a musical journey into melody and ambience. Made for relaxation and inspiration with a combination of guitar, violin, drums and keyboards, this is a fine album of elegant, ambient, textured music.

EVERY DAY IS A NEW LIFE

by Arto Tunçboyacıyan

Living Music, USA, 2000 (58mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—BMG Music, tel (07) 3236 0022; **USA**—Earth Music Productions, tel 1800 437 2281 (toll free), website www.livingmusic.com

We have featured a few albums in the past from Armenian artists, and this one is from legendary musician Arto Tunçboyacıyan, who was born in Turkey and later in life moved to the USA where he teamed with many well-known musicians. Not only does he play duduk (the haunting Armenian apricot wood flute), the traditional six-stringed sazabo and percussion, he is also an accomplished arranger. *Every Day...* features 11 of his compositions and an ensemble of 10 players including Paul Winter. This is a dynamic, resonant album with Arto's amazing, soul-filled voice.

UNTOLD THINGS

by Jocelyn Pook

Real World Records, UK, 2001 (51mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Real World Records, tel 01225 744464, <http://real-world.on.net>; **USA**—Real World Music, tel (414) 961 8350, www.narada.com

If you enjoy listening to experimental, challenging and stirring music, Jocelyn Pook's album is one to hear. Her own compositions of sound and word verge on poetic verse music. This album turns your head, moving you to your depths. These are tremendously awakening, passionate compositions, accompanied by cello, viola, violin,

tabla, percussion and piano. *Untold Things* is a rare musical treat, wrapped up in a many-coloured coat of world sounds.

CARNIVAL

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2001 (44mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 1888 788.8629 (toll free), website www.putumayo.com

The history of Carnival dates back at least 2,000 years to the Greek and Roman festivals. The word comes from the Latin *carne vale*, or "farewell to the flesh" (Make of that what you will.) In Brazil, Cuba and other Latin American countries, Carnival is king. Brazilian carnival music blends African and Portuguese sounds into a brew that gets you up on your feet. Music from Cuba, Trinidad, Barbados, Haiti, Colombia and New Orleans helps you *enjoy* life while you have it. Party music for fun and magic!

UNDER THE MOROCCAN SKY: Fes Festival of World Sacred Music Vol. III

by various artists

Sounds True, USA, 2001 (72mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—Banyan Tree, tel (08) 8363 4244; **USA**—Sounds True, tel 1800 333 9185, www.soundstrue.com

Every year in Morocco, the Fes Festival of Sacred Music is held. For each festival, an album of the pick of the music is released by Sounds True in the USA. This year-2000 recording features: Musa Dieng Kala with West African Sufi music; Houria Aïchi from Algeria, with her Berber music; the Dufay Collective's Middle Ages and Renaissance pilgrimage music; Nass El Ghiwane, a Moroccan band, with songs of social injustice; Aruna Sairam, with devotional songs from South India; as well as sacred classical music from Iran, traditional Maddah music from Upper Egypt plus more. An exemplary collection of sacred world sounds.

